

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2001
ROOM 129, STATE CAPITOL BUILDING**

Members Present: Sen. Howard Stephenson, Co-Chair
Sen. John Valentine
Rep. Marda Dillree, Co-Chair
Rep. Doug Aagard
Rep. Duane Bourdeaux
Rep. Judy Ann Buffmire
Rep. Glenn Donnelson
Rep. James Ferrin
Rep. Tom Hatch
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Karen Morgan
Rep. J. Morgan Philpot

Members Absent: Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Bill Hickman
Rep. John Swallow
Rep. Glenn Way

Staff Present: R. Michael Kjar, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Gary Ricks, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Bonnie Brinton, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Jeff Galli, Consultant, State Office of Education
Leslie Gertsch
Courtney Weave
Bill Gibson, Director, Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Ron Gardner, Legal Counsel
Jeffrey Smith, Director, Substitute Teaching Institute
Jim Wilson, State of Utah
John Westy, Utah State Office of Technology
Craig Dusmore, Director, Hogle Zoo
Con Rowley, Governor's Office, Education

Visitor List on File

Committee Co-Chair Rep. Marda Dillree called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes - Meetings, January 24, 2001, January 26, 2001, and January 29, 2001** - No action was taken on the minutes.

2. **Public Education Contracts - Analyst** - Gary Ricks, Fiscal Analyst, reviewed the Public Education Contracts.

Summary: The Utah State Board of Education contracts with various school districts to provide educational services at the Developmental Center, the Youth Center, and the State Prison. The Analyst recommends \$3,777,200.

Developmental Center: The Analyst recommends that one-time supplemental funding of \$55,100 be appropriated.

Corrections Education: It is anticipated that in excess of 5,000 offenders will reside in county jails during FY 2002. If funding becomes available, the Analyst recommends \$500,000 in ongoing Uniform School Funds be appropriated to meet this growth. This building block would provide for educational opportunities needed.

Post-Release Analysis: The State Office of Education has contracted with Datametrics Inc. to conduct a study examining employment patterns of offenders after release. Results from this study will be completed and available to the Legislature during the 2001 Interim.

Developmental Center: The Analyst is not recommending continued funding for this program.

Youth Center: The Analyst recommends the base budget funding of \$1,115,600 plus a compensation package increase when it is established.

Corrections Education Contracts: The Analyst recommends the base budget funding of \$2,661,600 and a compensation package increase when it is established. Should additional funds become available, the Analyst recommends that \$500,000 in ongoing funding be appropriated for education programs.

Statutory Provisions: The Analyst presented the current statutes governing Corrections Education.

Mr. Jeff Galli, Consultant, State Office of Education, responded to questions from committee members.

3. **Bill Presentations**

- a. **Rep. Gerry Adair - HB84: Appropriation for Deaf-Blind Service Providers**

Rep. Adair presented the bill. The fiscal note on the bill is \$360,000. The purpose of this bill is to create a new program to furnish service providers for deaf-blind adults living in Utah. He introduced Leslie Gertsch who spoke in favor of the bill and represented the deaf-blind community. She stated that people who are both deaf and blind want to take care of themselves as long as they can and do not want to become wards of the State. The cost per person to be cared for by the State is about \$36,000 to \$48,000 per year.

Blindfolds and ear plugs were given to committee members to help them gain a better perspective of the 150 deaf-blind adults in the State. Sixty of these people are severely restricted from activities in the community because of this disability. Two people are in nursing homes. One of the main problems is that these people do not have someone trained to communicate with them. This money would provide training and people to help them in their homes.

Courtney Weave spoke in favor of the bill.

Ms. Gertsch stated that there are presently 130 children in deaf-blind programs in the State of Utah.

Rep. Dillree thanked the speakers for their presentation.

Rep. Adair declared a Conflict of Interest.

Mr. Bill Gibson, Director, Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, responded to questions from committee members.

Mr. Ron Gardner, Legal Counsel, spoke regarding community integration of the deaf-blind people. He stated that they do not need to be in nursing homes because they have no medical problems. The problem is that there is no other place for them to go.

b. Rep. Loraine Pace - HB246 Substitute Teachers in Public Schools

Rep. Pace presented the bill. This act provides \$98,000 for the Substitute Teaching Institute at Utah State University. Assisting in the presentation was Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Director, Substitute Teaching Institute. Rep. Pace is proposing reviewing the practices, policies and procedures for recruiting teachers and the usage and problems with involving substitute teachers in the schools.

The Institute shall make a report of its activities before November 30, 2001, to the Legislature's Education Interim Committee, to the State Board of Education, and to the State's local school board.

Mr. Jim Wilson, State of Utah, reported that a survey had been attempted to ascertain how serious the problem is in Utah and found it was difficult to get good data because some information has not been tracked and some districts are reluctant to report the information.

Rep. Pace summarized by expressing the need for valuable information on this issue and the necessity of formulating a program that would assist in providing qualified teachers in the classroom.

c. Sen. Peter Knudson - SB112 - Appropriation for Assistive Technology

Sen. Knudson presented the bill. The fiscal note on this bill is \$150,000 from the Uniform School Fund and \$150,000 from the General Fund. This would be one-time funding to purchase assistive technology devices and services. Mr. John Westy, Utah State Office of Technology, spoke in favor of the bill and presented a brief demonstration of some of the technology that would provide solutions to disabled people. This office assisted 443 individuals last year and focuses on independent living goals. The money would help individuals who may not qualify for other funding.

Sen. Stephenson introduced Mr. Craig Dusmore, Director, Ms. Marilyn Smoot and Ms. Jill Cox of Hogle Zoo. They brought a penguin named "Hardy" to show. Because of an oil spill on the coast of South Africa thousands of penguins were in danger of dying a slow, painful death. Marilyn and Jill each spent three weeks in South Africa helping with recovery efforts to save these penguins. Hogle Zoo assists in conservation efforts with endangered species, conservation, education and action goals.

4. Teacher Math and Science

Sen. Lyle Hillyard - SB61 - Enhancements to the State Systems of Public and Higher Education

Sen. Hillyard stated that the State of Utah is losing math and science teachers. They have a choice of getting a higher paying job and are leaving the school system. This act would establish an engineering and computer science initiative within the state system of higher education and a job enhancement program for secondary teachers in mathematics, physics, chemistry, physical science, and information technology within the public education system.

This bill provides for a \$10,550,000 appropriation to fund the engineering and computer science initiative and a \$19,000,000 appropriation to fund the Public Education Job Enhancement Program.

Sen. Stephenson expressed his support of this bill.

Rep. Buffmire thanked Sen. Hillyard for bringing this bill before the Legislature.

Mr. Con Rowley, Governor's Office, Education, spoke in support of this bill and stated that it would assist in the resolution of serious problem. He stated that the governor strongly supports passage of this bill.

d. Sen. Howard Stephenson - SB57 Instruction in Mandarin Chinese in Public Schools

Sen. Stephenson presented this bill and invited Ms. Joan Patterson, Utah State Office of Education, Curriculum, to assist him in the presentation. This bill would require the State Board of Education to develop and implement a concurrent enrollment course on Mandarin Chinese to be taught over EDNET. He stated that the revised fiscal note on this bill would be \$50,600. A grant has been applied for requesting \$50,000 a year for three years, but the results won't be known until May.

Rep. Dillree suggested a field trip at some time to acquaint the committee with the existing programs being taught over EDNET.

Ms. Patterson responded to questions from committee members.

Sen. Stephenson stated that he has received more positive response regarding this bill than any other piece of legislation he has sponsored and he senses that it will be highly successful.

5. Minimum School Program - Block Grant Funding

Rep. Dillree reported that the Chairs do not feel ready to make recommendations on this issue at this time. Meetings have been held with analysts and more time is required to digest the materials. This issue will be addressed at a later time.

Rep. Buffmire requested an opportunity to hear open debate on issues regarding this funding.

Rep. Bourdeaux stated his support for Rep. Buffmire's concerns.

Rep. Philpot expressed his concern regarding public debate on block grant funding.

Rep. Dillree assured the committee that no money figures have been discussed at the present time and that there will be no action taken until public input is heard.

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m. at the request of Rep. Buffmire.

Sen. Howard Stephenson, Co-Chair

Rep. Marda Dillree, Co-Chair